

Harston and Newton Primary School

Newsletter no. 6

Thursday 27th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to update you on some staffing changes at school. **Mr Douglas** had resigned from his teaching post at Harston and Newton, but will continue with his SENCO role for the time being. He has been offered more hours at Stapleford Primary school, where he also teaches and works as SENCO. We will miss his good humour, kindness and positive approach but understand his desire to consolidate his hours. I am delighted to say that **Ms Evelyn** is happy to increase her working hours and will now be teaching Emerald class full time. I am pleased to say that we have appointed **Mrs Watkins**, an experienced specialist music teacher, to take over from Mrs Lihoreau next term. We still need to confirm her timetable and working days, but we are delighted that the strong musical provision in the school will continue.

Class Topaz/Opal Trip to Ely Museum

On Thursday 13th November, Topaz and Opal class enjoyed a visit to Ely Museum to learn all about toys from the past. They enjoyed looking at a range of old toys, thinking about how they were played with and who would have played with them. They were brilliant at spotting which toys were old and which were new, and there were some excellent explanations as to how they knew the toys were old. They loved being able to explore and play with the toys. The children also enjoyed playing some old fashioned playground games and playing with games inside as well. We were also treated to a puppet show performance of Sleeping Beauty and got to explore an amazing doll's house. By the end of the day we were all experts on toys!



Panathlon Multi Skills

A team of nine children from Key Stage 2 went to Impington Village College on 14th November to take part in a Panathlon Multi-skills challenge. They worked really well as a team and completed a range of activities including Parachute popcorn (Throwing balls off a parachute and then collecting them in colour groups) bowling at skittles, basketball and Bochia – a wheelchair sport. There were ten schools at the competition and although we did not finish in the top three, the children got very impressive medals and were great ambassadors for the school.



Funds raised from West Road Concert

You may remember that the school choir held a concert at West Road Concert hall in October. The final costs have been calculated and we are delighted to announce that the event raised **£7000.00**. Both Pancreatic Cancer UK and The Brain Tumour Charity will receive a cool £3500.00 each. This amazing figure, superbly raised by all those who attended and brought raffle tickets etc, was rounded up by a very kind donation. (The donor wishes to remain anonymous. So, thank you.) This is stunning!! It will make a huge difference to the charities so congratulations!

Phonics Fun

On 20th November Mrs Pluck invited Amber class parents to join the children for a phonics session so that they could see how well their reading skills were developing. Afterwards the parents joined in with lots of different reading activities and it was lovely to see so many parents and children enjoying books together. We were delighted to have seventeen of the nineteen families in the class represented and really appreciate the effort parents made to re-arrange things so they could attend. Mrs Pluck and Mrs Chapman were very proud of the way the children behaved and we hope that parents found the event useful.

School Photographs

Thank you to the parents who purchased their child's school photograph. We are pleased to say that we received £180.83 in commission for the school.

Scholastic Book Club Orders

You should have recently received a leaflet from Scholastic Book Club and there are many more books online. Our Book Club is open until **Friday 28th November** so please place your orders by this date, using the link



in the email you received so that the school order can be placed and delivered before Christmas.

For every £1.00 you spend, school receives 20p to buy books for the school so it's a great way to help the school buy new books.

Thank you for supporting this scheme.

Hamper raffle

Please can we have all donations for our annual Christmas hamper raffle **by Friday 28th November**, so we can make up the Hampers and start selling Raffle tickets at the beginning of December. Each class has a theme and we combine donations to make some amazing raffle prizes. The themes are shown below in case you need a reminder

- Pre-school and Amber – Arts and Crafts**
- Topaz – Sweet treats**
- Opal -Stocking fillers**
- Emerald – Toys, games and books**
- Amethyst – Christmas**
- Staff – Drinks**

The PTFA are planning an informal event - **Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday 18th December from 5.00 -**



6.30 p.m. There will be hot dogs, mince pies and other refreshments on sale and we will also draw the hamper raffle. It will be a lovely opportunity to enjoy singing carols together and we plan to decorate the hall for the occasion. It will also be an opportunity for parents and former pupils to say farewell and thank you to Mrs Lihoreau, before she leaves at the end of term.

School Applications

Applications are open for **Reception in September 2026**.

Applications for Reception places for next year need to be submitted by **15th January 2026**. We are able to offer tours of the school for prospective parents and these can be booked via the school office.

If you have friends or neighbours who have children who are due to start school next year, do encourage them to arrange a visit and consider applying for a place at the school. Personal recommendations for schools carry great weight so please help us ensure that we maintain our pupil numbers.

Stars of the week

Many parents will be aware that each week class teachers pick a child who has made a special effort with their learning, and they are celebrated as “Star of the week”, “Subject Specialist” and “Sports Personality”. We share these in the newsletter each fortnight.

Wednesday 19th November 2025

Star of the Week

Year R – Joey B W

Year 1 – Ismaell M

Year 2 – Hiran D

Year 3 – T’Jai H

Year 4 – Leo B

Year 5 – Ofri P B

Year 6 – Eve L



Subject Specialist

Amber Class – William S – Nursery Rhymer

Topaz Class – Whole class - Historians

Opal Class – Jack L – Retell of class trip

Emerald class – Sophia H - Reader

Amethyst Class – Josh L - Writer

Sports Personality

Dany for determination in the bleep test.

Wednesday 26th November 2025

Star of the Week

Year R – Lani S

Year 1 – Presley A

Year 2 – Esme B-C

Year 3 – Ariadne B

Year 4 – Matty M

Year 5 – Arthur G

Year 6 – Max H



Subject Specialist

Amber Class – Raffi C, Federico A and Felix

C - Readers

Topaz Class – Theo G - Writer

Opal Class – Allea J-S Scientist

Emerald class – Felix F - Geographer

Amethyst Class – Emelia G - Mathematician

Sports Personality

Ismaell M and Rose F

Sports Reports

Yr 5/6 Friendly Football Match

Last Thursday 14th November, some children from Amethyst Class took part in a friendly Football match against University of Cambridge Primary School (UCPS). They looked very smart in their Harston and Newton kits and had a promising start in the first quarter. The defence was strong with Charlie in goal and Reggie and Ayan in defence. Dany, Blake and Jaxson persevered in attack but couldn't hit the target. The first quarter ended 1-0 to UCPS. The second quarter began with a shot on target from Dany that was saved by the keeper. Alfie and Eddie supported Dany up front. Ali made a good run down the wing but was closed down by the oppositions defence. Jaxon worked hard in defence and Reggie was fantastic in goal making some great saves. The third quarter saw Blake and Reggie in defence who made a good partnership. Alfie joined Eddie and Ali in midfield and Saven was up front. Saven did lots of running and we had a few shots. Charlie worked hard in goal saving a few shots on target. At the end of the third goal Harston conceded a further goal. The final quarter saw a quick paced attack from Jaxon, Eddie and Dany. The defence were tested but no more goals were scored. Harston and Newton showed determination in their defending and persevered with their attacking. They played well as a team and their behaviour and attitude was exemplary.



Harston, Hauxton and Newton Travelling Nativity

The Travelling Nativity is based on the **Posada tradition** followed in many Latin American countries. The idea here is that the Travelling Nativity is an activity set including a Nativity scene with figures plus children's books telling the story of the Nativity and activity sheets. The Set is blessed and sent out on Advent Sunday (30th November 2025) from All Saints church, Harston to its first family. From then on, the set travels round various houses who use and play with it for 24 hours before taking it to the next house on the list. It will return on Christmas Eve to St Margaret's church, Newton at their 2pm Nativity Service and its final travel will be to All Saints, Harston at 4pm on Christmas Eve for their Christingle Service.



HARSTON CHRISTMAS FAIR

With Better Brew Community Cafe
Saturday 6 December 10.30am until 1.00pm
In Harston Village Hall

Hot drinks and fairly traded groceries and gifts from the usual Better Brew stall.

Cake and bakery stalls, Homemade chutneys,
Wood turner, Harston apple juice,
Local crafters' stalls,
Free craft activities for children,
Raffle



Friendly chatter and Christmas spirit. Free event but please bring cash to support your local enterprises



Would you like to take part?

If so, we will need your name, full address, contact phone number and email address. For GDPR purposes we would need your consent to keep these contact details on our system so that we can contact you this year and in future years with regard to this event and other relevant events that we are doing for children and families. By giving your details, you give your consent to this. To take part, please contact Mandy on vicarhnhn@gmail.com

Diary Dates

Yr 3/4 Friendly Football match 24th Nov 2025
Music Assembly 9.00 am 27th Nov 2025
PTFA Christmas Wreath Workshop 28th Nov 2025

Choir performance at Carols for

Advent Harston Village Hall 30th Nov 2025
Small Schools Cross Country 3rd Dec 2025

Sportshall Athletics Championship . . 6th Dec 2025

Class Amethyst Kings College Chapel 9th Dec 2025
Panathlon Swimming (TBC) 10th Dec 2025

School Christmas Lunch 10th Dec 2025

KS1 Play for parents 11th Dec 2025
KS1 Play for parents 12th Dec 2025
Class Amethyst to STEM 12th Dec 2025
Christmas Jumper Day 12th Dec 2025
Santa Dash 12th Dec 2025

Choir performance at West Road . . 15th Dec 2025

Pre-school Nativity 9.30am 16th Dec 2025

PTFA Carols by Candlelight 17th Dec 2025
Carol Service at Harston Church . . . 18th Dec 2025

Class Amber Christmas Party p.m. . 18th Dec 2025

PTFA Own Clothes Day 19th Dec 2025

Healthy You Schools Week - . . 12th-16th Jan 2026

Class Topaz History off the Page . . . 20th Jan 2026

PTFA Class Amethyst Cake Sale 23rd Jan 2026

Year R Vision Screening 27th Jan 2026

Emerald Class Verulamium Museum 28th Jan 2026

New Age Kurling 2nd Feb 2026

Small Schools Quicksticks Hockey . . 12th Feb 2026

Yr 6 and Yr R National Weighing and

Measurement Programme 12th Feb 2026

PTFA Own Clothes Day 13th Feb 2026

Netball Competition MVC (TBC) 9th Mar 2026

Year 5 and 6 to Boggle Hole . . . 9th – 13th Mar 2026

Small Schools TAG Rugby (AM) 18th Mar 2026

PTFA Class Topaz Cake Sale 20th Mar 2026

PTFA Own Clothes Day 27th Mar 2026

Individual School Photographs 27th Mar 2026

Skipping Week (IN SCHOOL) – 20th -24th April 2026

PTFA Own Clothes Day 1st May 2026

Tennis Festival (Linton VC) 7th May 2026

PTFA Own Clothes Day 21st May 2026

Small schools Quadkids Athletics . . . 4th June 2026

Year 3/4 Girls Football Festival . . . 17th June 2026

National School Sports Week . 15th-19th June 2026

PTFA Emerald Class Cake Sale 26th June 2026

Dynamos Cricket 30th June 2026

PTFA Own Clothes Day 10th July 2026

Term Dates

Academic Year 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025

Autumn Term Closes – Friday 19th Dec 2025

Spring Term 2026

Staff Training Day – Monday 5th January 2026

Spring Term Opens – Tuesday 6th January 2026

Half Term – 16th – 20th February 2026

Spring Term Closes – Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Summer Term Opens – Monday 13th April 2026

May Day – Monday 4th May 2026

Staff Training Day – Friday 22nd May 2026

Half Term – 25th – 29th May 2026

Summer Term Opens – Monday 1st June 2026

Summer Term Closes – Friday 17th July

Staff Training Day – Monday 20th July

Academic Year 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

Staff Training Day – Tuesday 1st Sept 2026

Autumn Term Opens – Wednesday 2nd Sept 2026

Staff Training Day – Friday 23rd Oct 2026

Half Term – 26th Oct – 30th Oct 2026

Autumn Term Closes – Friday 18th Dec 2026

Spring Term 2027

Staff Training Day – Monday 4th Jan 2027

Spring Term Opens – Tuesday 5th Jan 2027

Half Term – 15th – 19th Feb 2027

Spring Term Closes – Thursday 25th Mar 2027

Summer Term 2027

Staff Training Day – Monday 12th Apr 2027

Summer Term Opens – Tuesday 13th Apr 2027

May Day – Monday 3rd May 2027

Staff Training Day – Friday 28th May 2027

Half Term – 31st May – 4th Jun 2027

Summer Term Opens – Monday 7th June 2027

Summer Term Closes – Tuesday 20th Jul 2027